

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

In the claims

Claims 1-5 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 6-9 are added. Support for new claims 6-9 is found at pages 3 and 4 of the specification, and in Fig. 1.

Objection to the specification

The specification is presently objected to for certain informalities. In particular, the examiner notes that, in that abstract, the phrase "is provided" constitutes an implied phrase and should be deleted. The abstract is amended to delete the phrase "is provided."

In view of the amended abstract, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5 presently stand rejected as being unpatentable over Durigon (EP 0 745 0744 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1-5 have been cancelled, rendering their rejection moot. Claims 6-9 are added.

It is respectfully submitted that Durigon does not disclose or suggest each and every element of claims 6-9 and, therefore, Durigon does not form a prima facie case of obviousness of the presently claimed invention.

Durigon shows an angled swivel connector 154, with the body of the connector being angled at 45°. One end of the connector 154 can clip rotatably to the outlet of a cleaner, and a second swivel joint 158 is provided at the other end of the connector 154 to prevent "wind-up" of a hose attached to the cleaner. (see *Durigon*; col. 6, lines 50-57).

Durigon describes that a rotating hose connector 20 is fitted to the outlet 18 (and thus presumably outlet 218). This rotating hose connector 20 allows the connector 154 to be rotatingly fitted to the cleaner. Significantly, it is respectfully submitted that Durigon's rotating hose connector 20 is fitted to the outlet 189/218, and not to the angled swivel connector 154 itself. Applicant respectfully submits that this arrangement is believe to be necessary in that a number of small spherical weights 106 are located around the hose connector 20, the weights rolling around the connector 20 as the cleaner moves so as to bias the cleaner towards the bottom of the pool. (see *Durigon*; col. 5, lines 13-16).

Referring to Fig. 1 of the present application, the present invention, as set forth in new claims 6-9, is different in that the elbow joint 1 is integral with a first extension 10 and a second extension 11. The first and second extensions 10, 11 are fitted to the ends of the elbow joint 1 with a simple peripheral rib 9 and peripheral groove 5 arrangement.

This arrangement of the present invention provides a simple, efficient and maintenance-free swivel arrangement. In particular, the present invention is more versatile in comparison to the swivel connector 154 of Durigon in that the present invention can be used interchangeably with other cleaners. In contrast, it is respectfully submitted that this interchangeability feature is inherently lacking in the cited reference, with the swivel connector 154 of Durigon being only suitable for a specific type of pool cleaner.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 6-9 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.


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Examiner: James M. Hewitt
Art Unit: 3679

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

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Respectfully submitted,



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